

UNCLASSIFIED  
TELEGRAM

79 14: 20

AIRTEL

CN 9163

File

11/7/79

071420Z NOV 79

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

AZ 122

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FROM  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

12065:

E.O. 11652X

TAGS:

SUBJECT: (U) A DISAPPEARANCE EXPLAINED

ACTION:

INFO :

SECSTATE WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

BUENOS AIRES 9163

AMB  
DCM  
POL 3  
POL/R  
ECOM  
ICA  
DAO  
CHRON

1. (U) THE ARGENTINE ARMY'S FIRST CORPS ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 10 THAT VICTOR RUBEN PORTER, WHOSE DISAPPEARANCE WAS REPORTED LAST WEEK (BUENOS AIRES 9069) IS UNDER DETENTION AND CHARGED WITH BEING A MEMBER OF THE MONTONEROS. THE ARMY ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT RUBEN PORTER WAS INCRIMINATED BY DOCUMENTS BELONGING TO A TERRORIST KNOWN ONLY AS "CARMEN" WHO KILLED HERSELF IN LATE OCTOBER RATHER THAN BE CAPTURED ('CARMEN'S' SUICIDE WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME BY THE MILITARY). ACCORDING TO THE ARMY STATEMENT, RUBEN PORTER WAS INVOLVED IN "COMMUNICATIONS" FOR THE MONTONEROS. HE WILL BE HELD AND TRIED BY A MILITARY COURT.

2. COMMENT: A HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE WHO WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE EFFORT TO FIND RUBEN PORTER TOLD US THAT ARMY SECRETARY GENERAL BIGNONE AGAIN REPEATED

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

DRAFTED BY:

POL:TB FRIEDMAN:JK

DRAFTING DATE

11/6/79

TEL. EXT.

277

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/POLCOUNS:AGFREEMAN

CLEARANCES:

DCM:MCHAPLIN

50153-101

CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

OPTIONAL FORM 153  
(Formerly FS-413)  
January 1975  
Dept. of State

81F184  
42/48

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MRN

YESTERDAY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE DISAPPEARANCES, SUGGESTING THAT ACCUSED TERRORISTS WOULD WIND UP IN MILITARY COURTS. BIGNONE ADDED THAT THE OFFICIAL CUT OFF DATE FOR DISAPPEARANCES WAS SEPTEMBER 12 THE DAY ON WHICH THE CONTROVERSIAL LAW ON PRESUMPTIVE DEATHS WAS OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED. WHILE WE KNOW OF ONE UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCE SINCE SEPTEMBER 12, THE ARMY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY HAVE PORTER IN JAIL IS DISTINCT FROM GENERAL PAST PRACTICE AND HOPEFULLY WILL BE A PRECEDENT.

3. THE ARMY DID NOT, WE NOTE, ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT RUBEN PORTER'S EMPLOYMENT IN THE HERALD PRINTING PLANT. RATHER, THE ANNOUNCEMENT STATED PORTER WAS USING THE JOB AS "COVER", IMPLYING THAT THE HERALD WAS INNOCENTLY VICTIMIZED.

4. WE HAVE NO WAY OF EVALUATING THE CHARGE THAT RUBEN PORTER IS A MONTONERO. RECENTLY, THOUGH, THE GOA'S RECORD ON SUCH CHARGES HAS BEEN REASONABLY ACCURATE. HIS FAMILY STATED TO US THAT HE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN POLITICS AS FAR AS THEY KNEW. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ALSO SAY THAT MANY OF HIS FRIENDS IN ARGENTINA WERE POLITICALLY ACTIVE AND THAT WAS ONE REASON THEY SENT HIM TO MEXICO TO STUDY IN 1976. HE RETURNED TO ARGENTINA FROM MEXICO AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

CASTRO R/K

Classification

OPTIONAL FORM 152a(H)  
(Formerly FS-413(H)a)  
January 1975  
Dept. of State

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